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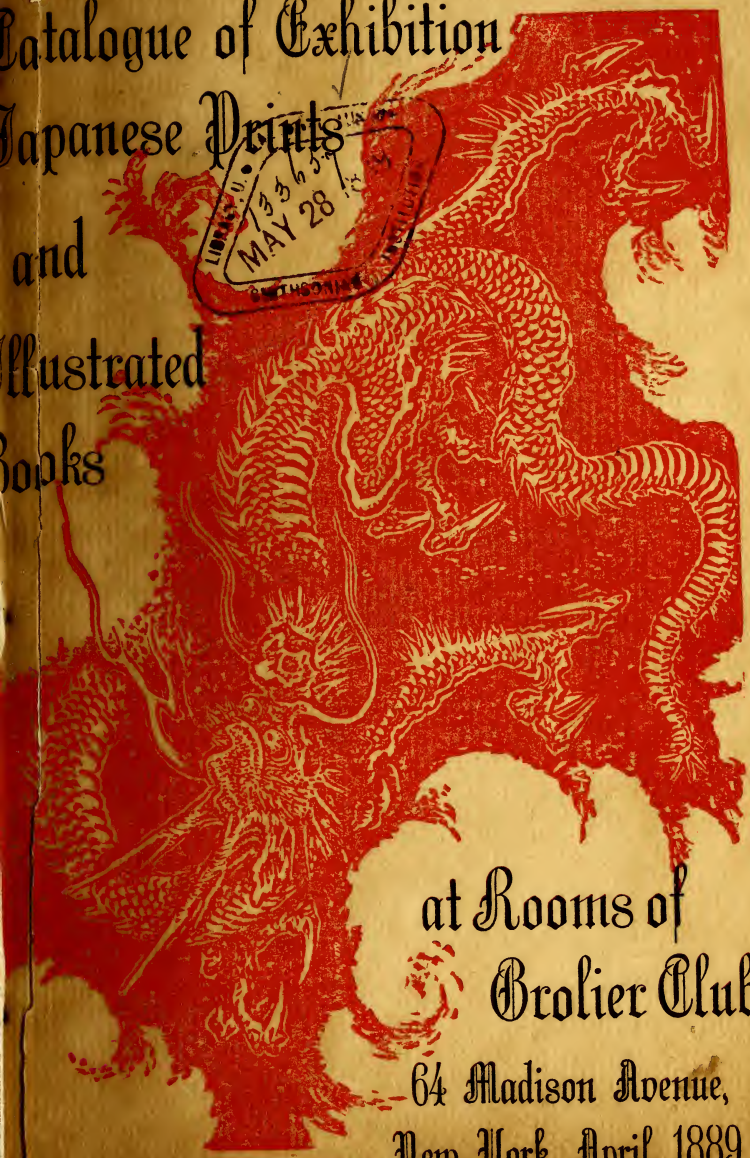
Catalogue of Exhibition of Japanese Prints and Illustrated Books



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at Rooms of
Grolier Club
64 Madison Avenue,
New-York, April, 1889.

Engraph.

With Compliments

of

N. Shugio

AN EXHIBITION OF JAPANESE COLORED PRINTS AND ILLUSTRATED BOOKS.

atalogue of an Exhibition of Japanese Colored Prints and Illustrated Books at the rooms of the Grolier Club, at No. 64 Madison Avenue, N. Y. April, 1889

Note.

LACK of time in preparing this catalogue prevents a full description of the colored prints and illustrated books now exhibited, and only a very brief introductory note can be given regarding the general history of Japanese Xylography, which is perhaps the branch of Japanese arts least known in this country.

Xylography, like all other arts, owes its origin to religion, and the earliest examples are to be found in the printed sacred images of Buddhist temples in Japan. The exact date of its birth in the land of sunrise is not yet known, but Japanese antiquarians, as well as Mr. Ernest Satow, the eminent Japanese scholar, and Doctor Anderson, the distinguished author of the most thorough and instructive work yet published on Japanese pictorial arts, seem to assume that it came into existence not later than 770 A. D. There are some reasons for supposing that it may have been practiced at a much more remote period, but no earlier authentic specimen having been found, this must be taken as the approximate time of its origin.

Doctor Anderson, in his admirable work just referred to, divides the era of Japanese Xylography into seven periods, as follows:

I. From the beginning of wood engraving to the opening of the seventeenth century.

II. From the introduction of wood-cut illustrations into popular books in the beginning of the seventeenth century to about 1680.

III. From the time of Hishikawa Moronobu, the father of our artistic book illustrators, to 1710.

IV. From 1710 to 1765, a period distinguished by the

labors of two memorable men, Morikuni and Sukenobu, and by a considerable development of Chromo-Xylography in the hands of the Torii school.

V. From 1765 to 1820, which Anderson calls the palmy age of Japanese Chromo-Xylography.

VI. From 1825 to 1860, during which period the later works of Hokusai appeared.

VII. From 1860 to the present time.

In this exhibition, examples of wood engravings of the seven periods are to be found, affording some idea of the progress of Japanese Xylography, though rather in a limited way.

Of wood-cuts in book illustrations Anderson remarks that they began to be used at a comparatively late date. "The oldest volume known to the author is an edition of the Ise Monogatari, published in 1608, but similar embellishments appeared in printed rolls at a much earlier period; an undoubted example, dated in 1504, being included in the Satow collection." He adds, however, that "it is most probable that the claims of this volume to priority will one day be superseded, for it has scarcely the appearance of a maiden effort." This expectation has been realized, as there is an older work than the Ise Monogatari, with wood-cuts, in this exhibition, viz., No. 175, the Ukiyo Denshiw Kuruma, which bears the date of 1533.

The early wood-cut illustrations are rather weak in design and poor in execution, and are interesting only from an archæological point of view. It is really from the beginning of the seventeenth century, when Moronobu inaugurated the artistic book illustrations, that wood engraving came to be regarded as one of the fine arts. Moronobu was the most noted artist of the third period (1680–1710), and his name well deserves to be held in grateful memory by our print collectors. No. 1 and No.

151 are examples of his works. Of the other celebrated artists of this period, Okumura Masanobu, represented in No. 52; Torii Kiyonobu and Torii Kiyomasu, represented in No. 54; Miyagawa Choshun, Hasegawa Toun and Ishikawa Riusen were the most distinguished.

In the fourth period (1710–1765) Tachibana Morikuni, represented in No. 142, and Nishikawa Sukenobu, represented in No. 147, were the two most noted artists. Torii Kiyomitsu, Ishikawa Toyonobu, Shumboku, Tangei, and Nishimura Shigenaga were also prominent for their good works.

The fifth period (1765–1820) produced many excellent artists, such as Torii Kiyonaga, Katsukawa Shunsho, Toriyama Sekiyen, Suzuki Harunobu Hosoda, Yeishi, Isoda Koriusai Kitawo Masanobu, Utagawa Toyokuni, Utagawa Toyoharu, Kikugawa Yeizan, Hosoi Chobunsai, Kubo Shunman, Shuncho, Kitagawa Utamaro, Katsushika Hokusai, and Keisai Yeisen. Nearly all of these are represented in this exhibition. Special attention is invited to the original drawing, No. 114, one of Hokusai's masterpieces; fine colored prints of Hokusai's famous "Ghosts," No. 81; Shunsho's original drawing, No. 115; and Kiyonaga's sheet, No. 80.

In the sixth period (1825–1860) Utagawa Kunisada, Utagawa Kuniyoshi Ichiriusai Hiroshige, Hasegawa, Settan and Settie, Matsukawa Hanzan, Hokkei and Kikuchi Yosai are the most conspicuous names.

Of the artists of the latest period (1860–1889), Kawanobe Kiosai, Sensai Yeitoku, Zeshin, Bairei, and Yoshitoshi are the most famous.

For more particular information on Japanese Xylography, Dr. Anderson's "Pictorial Arts of Japan" is very strongly recommended, as the whole field of this art is thoroughly discussed by the distinguished author.

Catalogue of An Exhibition of Japanese Colored Prints and Illustrated Books.

1 Girls in Secret.

Artist, Hishikawa Moronobu. Date 1700

2 Portrait of Hikosabro as Sogano Goro.

Artist, Torii Kiyomitsu. Date 1720

3 Fancy Figure Picture.

Artist, Suzuki Harunobu. Date 1770

4 Portrait of an Actor, Arashi.

Artist Shunko. Date 1770

5 Yoritomo's Hunt on Fuji.

Artist, Toyoharu. Date 1780

6 Girl Carrying a Love Letter.

Artist, Toyokuni. Date 1800

7 Mother and Children at Play.

Artist, Utamaro. Date 1790

8 Female Portrait.

Artist, Yeicho. Date 1820

9 Scene in a Tea House.

Artist, Toyokuni. Date 1800

10 Portrait of an Actor in a Female Character.

Artist, Toyokuni. Date 1800

11 Portrait of an Actor in a Female Character.

Artist, Kunisada. Date 1820

12 Portrait of Actor Utayemon as Shogi.

Artist, Toyokuni. Date 1800

13 Girl Holding an Overcoat.

Artist, Yeisen. Date 1790

14 Maiden and her Servant.

Artist, Yeizan. Date 1780

15 Portrait of Actor Yebijiuro as Jiubei.

Artist, Shuncho. Date 1780

16 A Dancer and her Attendants.

Artist, Yeisho. Date 1820

17 Portrait of Actor Tanosuke in a Female Character.

Artist, Kunisada. Date 1820

18 Hirai Gompachi in Honjio.

Artist, Kuniyoshi. Date 1820

19 Portrait of Actor Rikwan as the Oil Man.

Artist, Shunko. Date 1806

20 Portrait of Actor Shikwan as Satake Shinjuro.

Artist, Shunzan. Date 1820

21 Portrait of Actor Kikugoro as a Ghost.

Artist, Hokushiu. Date 1845

22 Portrait of Arashi Kichisabro as Oda Harutaka.

Artist, Shunkio. Date 1790

23 Portraits of Actor Kikugoro in his famous seven characters.

Artist, Hokushiu. Date 1845

24 Portrait of Actor as Chohan, the famous highwayman.

Artist, Shunko. Date 1770

25 Portrait of an Actor as General Yorimasa.

Artist, Hokushiu. Date 1845

26 Portrait of Actor as Yorimasa.

Artist, Kunihiro. Date 1850

27 Young Boys at Play.

Artist, Shunsen. Date 1800

28 Warrior's Expedition to the Hell.

Artist, Sadashige. Date 1840

29 View of Musashiye, a Restaurant in Yedo.

Artist, Kuninawo. Date 1830

30 Comic Picture, Soldiers engaged in making Rice-cake.

Artist, Yoshitora. Date 1845

31 Scene from Play, "Lovers."

Artist, Shunsho. Date 1770

32 Portrait of Danjiuro as Arashi Otokonosuke.

Artist, Torii Kiyomitsu. Date 1730

33 Scene from Play.

Artist, Torii Kiyomitsu. Date 1730

34 Chinese on Horseback.

Artist, Torii Kiyoshige. Date 1750

35 Lady and her Servant.

Artist, Torii Kiyonaga. Date 1760

36 Marriage Procession of Foxes.

Artist, Torii Kiyotsune. Date 1760

37 Two Ladies in Conversation.

Artist, Ishikawa Toyonobu. Date 1750

38 Animals and Birds.

Artist, Torii Kiyohiro. Date 1760

39 Scene from Play.

Artist, Buncho. Date 1770

40 Girls at Toilet.

Artist, Kikumaro. Date 1800

41 An Actor.

Artist, Katsukawa Shunko. Date 1770

42 Woman Reading Love Letter.

Artist, Shunsho. Date 1770

43 Young Swell.

Artist, Shunsho. Date 1770

44 Girl Writing a Poem.

Artist, Giokuyen. Date 1820

45 An Illustration from Soga Monogatari (Soga Romance).

Artist, Hiroshige. Date 1830

46 Girl in Meditation.

Artist, Shunsen. Date 1800

47 Scene from Play of Soga.

Artist, Sadahide. Date 1840

48 Portrait of Gennosuke, Actor, as Shokuro.

Artist, Shuntei. Date 1820

49 Scene from Play.

Artist, Torii Kiyotsune. Date 1760

50 Mother and Child.

Artist, Hokusai. Date 1810

51 Young Musician.

Artist, Kitawo Shigemasa. Date 1770

52 An Illustration of Scene from Play.

Artist, Okumura Massanobu. Date 1700

53 Illustration from a Book.

Artist, Nishikawa Sukenobu. Date 1725

54 Scenes from Play.

Artist, Torii Kiyomasu. Date 1700

55 Diagram showing an Opera House.

Artist, Yeisen. Date 1845

56 Advertisement Sheet of Artistic Gardener.

Artist, Hokukei. Date 1820

57 Comic Picture, Death Scene of Actor Utayemon.

Artist, Toyokuni. Date 1820

58 View of Kanazawa.

Artist, Hiroshige. Date 1830

59 Horse Catching.

Artist, Hiroshige. Date 1830

60 View of Shimabara.

Artist, Shunchosai. Date 1840

61 Ghosts.

Artist, Sadahide. Date 1840

62 Girl and Maid.

Artist, Kiyonaga. Date 1765

63 Domestic Scene.

Artist, Toyohiro. Date 1800

64 Spring Scene.

Artist, Shunman. Date 1780

65 May Decoration.

Artist, Yeizan. Date 1800

66 Comic Picture of Benkei.

Artist, Kuninawo. Date 1830

67 Lady with Wine Tray.

Artist, Toyokuni. Date 1800

68 Mother and Child.

Artist, Yeizan. Date 1800

69 Woman at Toilet.

Artist, Yeizan. Date 1800

70 Lady Kesa cutting off her Hair.

Artist, Kuniyoshi. Date 1820

71 Advertisement sheet of Story Teller.

Artist, Yoshimori. Date 1855

72 Great Fireworks at Riogoku.

Artist, Kunitora. Date 1840

73 Streets of Osaka.

Artist, Hanzan. Date 1839

74 Portraits of the famous Story Tellers.

Artist, Sadafusa. Date 1835

75 Portrait of Actor Tanosuke, in a Female Character.

Artist, Kunisada. Date 1825

76 Portraits of Utayemon in seven characters in the Play of Royal Ronins.

Artist, Toyokuni. Date 1820

77 Takeda and his Generals.

Artist, Rantoku. Date 1800

78 Portrait of Yoshitsune.

Artist, Kuniyoshi. Date 1820

79 Scene from Play.

Artist, Kunimaro. Date 1820

80 Children Fighting over a Game of Go.

Artist, Kiyonaga. Date 1765

81 Ghosts.

Artist, Hokusai. Date 1848

82 Eruption of Bantai.

Artist, Tankei. Date 1888

83 New-Year's Card, Bambo and Bird.

Artist, Kitawo. Date 1795

84 New-Year's Card, Girl and Sun.

Artist, Shunman. Date 1779

85 New-Year's Card, Girl at Desk.

Artist, Shigemasa. Date 1760

86 New-Year's Card,
Girls Picking Greens.

Artist, Yeishi. Date 1794

87 New-Year's Card, Girl and Fox.

Artist, Hoin. Date 1858

88 New-Year's Card,
Girl Playing Battle-door.

Artist, Koriusai. Date 1784

89 New-Year's Card, Game of Go.

Artist, Shunman. Date 1784

90 New-Year's Card, Boy Writing.

Artist, Shunman. Date 1784

91 New-Year's Card, Girl at Koto.

Artist, Hokusai. Date 1800

92 New-Year's Card, Sweeper.

Artist, Bairin. Date 1800

93 New-Year's Card, Lady on Visit.

Artist, Shunman. Date 1785

94 New-Year's Card, Court Noble.

Artist, Kitawo Shigemasa. Date 1790

95 New-Year's Card,
Gentleman and Servant.

Artist, Yeishi. Date 1794

96 New-Year's Card,
Girl Singing a New Song.

Artist, Shinsai. Date 1796

97 New-Year's Card,
Girl Arranging Flowers.
Artist, Hokusai. Date 1810

98 New-Year's Card, Rising Sun.
Artist Zeshin. Date 1844

99 New-Year's Card.
Artist, Toyokuni. Date 1794

100 New-Year's Card.
Artist, Chobunsai. Date 1798

101 New-Year's Card.
Artist, Utamaro. Date 1794

102 Autumn Flowers.
Artist, Hokkei. Date 1800

103 A Procession of Fire Brigade.

Artist, Toyokuni. Date 1800

104 Portraits of the Celebrated Actors.

Artist, Yoshiyuki. Date 1850

105 Portraits of Actors.

Artist, Toyokuni. Date 1850

106 Portraits of Actors.

Artist, Kuniyasu. Date 1820

107 Advertisement Sheet of Story Tellers.

Artist, Kunimaru. Date 1820

108 Advertisement Sheet of Story Tellers.

Artist, Kunimaru. Date 1820

109 Advertisement Sheet of Print Shop.

Artist, Shigemasa. Date 1797

110 Advertisement Circular of a Theatre.

Artist, after Torii style. Date 1856

111 Collection of Pictures.

Various Artists.

112 Advertisement Sheet of a Theatre.

Artist, Torii Kiyomitsu. Date 1825

113 Original Drawing, Scene from Play.

Artist, Toyokuni. Date 1830

114 Kakemono, "Oil Boy."

By Hokusai. Date 1820

115 Kakemono, "Girl."

Artist, Shunsho. Date 1770

116 Kakemono, "Girl in Rain."

Artist, Kagaku. Date 1810

117 Yema, Historical Picture.

Artist, Kuniyoshi. Date 1820

118 Original Drawing, Landscape.

Artist, Soken. Date 1790

119 Original Drawing, Rats.

Artist, Goshun. Date 1760

120 Original Drawing, a Farmer.

Artist, Goshun. Date 1770

121 Original Drawing, Birds.

Artist, Kasun. Date 1887

122 Original Drawing, "Domestic Scene."

Artist, Tanemaro. Date 1840

123 Kakemono, Shogi.

Artist, Okio. Date 1760

124 Yamato Jinbutsu Gwafu. Figure Sketches. 3 vols.

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Artists, Hokusai, Sadahide, Kazan and others. Date 1837

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193 Dochiu Gwafu. 2 vols.

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194 Teikun Orai. 1 vol.

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Artist, Hokusai. No date

195 Hita no Takumi Monogatari. 6 vols.

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Artist unknown. Date 1809

196 Fugaku Hiakkei. 3 vols.

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Artist, Hokusai. Reprint of 1875

197 Book of Designs and Crests.

Artist, Shunsai Yeisho. Date 1833

198 Book of Comic Patterns.

Artist unknown. Date 1800

199 Life of the Famous Judge Awoto. 10 vols.

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